

12 July 1955

Mr. John T. Campbell, Head
BBC Monitoring Service
Caversham Park
Reading, Berks.
England

Dear John:

Your letter of 30 June was received a few days ago and we are most grateful for the frank evaluation it contains. Your views coincide remarkably with our own.

The evaluations of our customers in general express a surprisingly high regard for the usefulness of the Hokkaido coverage. I suspect this is in part born of the scarcity of information from other sources pertaining to these targets. We continue to hope for information and statistics on the scale which you indicate would be desirable; but lacking that, some seem willing and able to utilize the available scraps. Your observation that seasonal variations are greater does apply to the interior Siberian cities, but the season's duration at Hokkaido averages about eight months for them, as compared to a season of four to five months at Kyrenia. Since the off months at Hokkaido are devoted to leave and housekeeping tasks, the remaining coastal targets offer enough summer work to make the operation a practical one.

Since we now have strong requests for continuance of the coverage, our principal problem is how to do so effectively and economically. We feel our best opportunity in this respect would be by finding a way to remain where we are. To this end we have set machinery in motion to determine Japanese willingness to permit FBIS to remain and to operate after the base is turned over to them, and if favorable, to secure their permission to purchase the land necessary to meet all our requirements. If this fails we shall give serious attention to finding an alternate location in that general part of Japan. We have also considered the method you mentioned of recording in Hokkaido and processing elsewhere, and in all likelihood would do this before giving up entirely.

Although we are not quite certain yet what shall be done in a few days when most of our staff is ousted from its housing, the

over-all problem will be resolved one way or another, and we shall keep you informed on developments which will have any significant effect upon the production of the Bureau.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Chief, FBIS

cc:

[Redacted Name]

AMW:fes

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